

rushes (*Juncus effusus*) and cat-tails (*Typha latifolia*), 12 inches above water, which in that spot was about two feet deep. The cat-tails were bent over above the nest forming a partially covered arch. The nest itself was loosely, but firmly, constructed of rushes, and measured 9 inches across by 4 inches deep; a slight depression held the eggs. Although this species is a regular breeder in the Delaware River marshes of Delaware County, which borders Chester County on the east, and of Philadelphia County, which borders Delaware County on the north, as far as I have been able to ascertain, this constitutes the first breeding record for Chester County.—LEONARD S. PEARSON, *Wayne, Pa.*

**The Black Rail in Maryland.**—In 'The Auk' for April, 1909, p. 190, I mentioned that several specimens of the little Black Rail were said to have been taken on the Patuxent River in Maryland. Through the courtesy of Mr. W. F. Roberts, I am now able to give three records. Mr. Roberts, who was an associate member of the A. O. U. from 1888 to 1899, is an enthusiastic sportsman, has had long experience in rail shooting, and is thoroughly familiar with the habits of the various species in this vicinity. In a recent letter he says:

"For more than 25 years the writer has been cognizant of the regular occurrence of *Porzana jamaicensis* on the marshes of the Patuxent River, in the vicinity of Mt. Calvert, Md. It appears more reluctant to take wing than *P. carolina* and more are taken during October than September—the two months of rail shooting. They are never common, but I learn of several individuals every season and have the following record dates: Oct. 19, 1906; Sept. 22, 1907; and Oct. 12, 1908."

The only other record for this rail in Maryland with which I am familiar is that of a specimen presented to the National Museum by John Dowell. This bird (No. 97,717) was taken on Piscataway Creek, Prince George County, on September 25, 1877.—T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

**First Appearance of the Sanderling in the Vicinity of Detroit.**—In August, 1908, the Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*) was noted for the first time in the vicinity of this city. Specimens were taken by Messrs. W. C. Wood, Spicer, Jones, and the writer. With them came a White-rumped Sandpiper (*Actodromas fuscicollis*) which is the first autumn record for the county. The Sanderling reappeared May 16, 1909.—J. CLARE WOOD, *Detroit, Mich.*

**Actodromas fuscicollis in Philadelphia County, Pa.**—This species, which is rightly regarded by ornithologists as a rare transient in this vicinity, is mentioned in Warren's 'Birds of Pennsylvania,' revised edition, page 85, as a "very rare spring and fall migrant," and in Stone's 'Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey,' we learn (page 32) that it is a "rare or irregular transient," and also, on page 73, that "this species

probably occurs in small numbers during migrations...." This last is highly probable, as on this page Stone further states that it is not an uncommon transient on the New Jersey coast, for, like all of the Limicola that occur regularly in any numbers along this coast during migrations, their occurrence inland on the Delaware River and other streams is to be expected and looked for during and after severe and protracted northeast and southwest storms. This is a fact well known to sportsmen who take advantage of such occasions to go out after shore birds and other water fowls, and seldom do they return empty handed.

During the past several years I have devoted much of my time to the study of the water and shore birds, ferreting out the records of all that occur on the Delaware, but nowhere have I found any recent and reliable records of the occurrence of this species in this vicinity. There is a probability that gunners confuse it with the Pectoral Sandpiper, which it resembles, and this uncertainty of the identity of the species makes it almost impossible to ascertain anything definite regarding the bird's status from such sources.

The only records of the White-rumped Sandpiper's occurrence in this vicinity that I know of follow:—

A mounted bird in my collection — where it remained unidentified for several years — was picked up by my brother George E. Miller on October 7, 1901, at Port Richmond, this county, on the shore of a pond. The taxidermist who mounted it failed to ascertain the sex for me, but said it was very fat and in excellent condition. It is of course in fall or winter plumage.<sup>1</sup>

At this locality on October 10, 1906, my brother George shot one but ruined it entirely as a specimen with a heavy charge of No. 6 shot, that tore and mutilated the bird. It, too, was in fall plumage and also in fine condition.

These are the only records of the White-rumped Sandpiper that I can vouch for *now* as occurring here, but further investigation may bring to light several others of hazy authenticity at present.— RICHARD F. MILLER, Frankford, Philadelphia, Pa.

**The Spruce Partridge in the White Mountains.**—Late in August, 1908, on descending the Crawford bridle path on Mount Clinton, just below the timber line, I came upon a female Spruce Partridge (*Canachites canadensis canadensis*) with a single chick about one third the size of its mother. The older bird was very tame. I walked within four feet of her as she stood upon a little knoll of moss, while the chick made its way nervously off into the forest. She was also strikingly tranquil. Once in a while, with a low, guttural note, she would ruffle her plumage for a moment and look at me

<sup>1</sup> Since the foregoing was written the bird has been presented to Dr. Witmer Stone, of the Academy of Natural Sciences of this city, in which institution it can now be seen. R. F. M.